



Building a strong SACP

for Victory in the 2011 Local Government Elections

Draft Commission Report from SACP Conference of Commissars, 15-18 July 2010

1. Building VD Based Branches as per the 12th Congress Resolution & Towards the 500 000 members by 2014
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1. Building VD Based Branches as per the 12th Congress Resolution & Towards the 500 000 members by 2014

- a. The Commission noted with serious concern the slow pace on the implementation of the Congress Resolution in most of the Provinces of the SACP.
- b. There is a need to recommit all structures of the Party and its Cadres to ensure that the Resolution is implemented as a matter of urgency.
- c. Provinces especially those with Metropolitan Municipalities have huge tasks, noting that there are more Voting Districts as compared to those with District Municipalities.
- d. The Commission further noted that there are areas where demarcation creates some challenges especially around finalization of new Voting Districts. It was however agreed that such should be noted and work to build VD Branches should continue at a higher rate.
- e. The SACP largely depend on VD based branches to take its Campaigns closer to the people, especially the working class and the poor.

- f. That the SACP should continue to explore better ways to resource the Party, ensuring that basic resources are mobilized for our structures to do Party work, particularly at district levels on administration and coordination of activities.
- g. That each Branch to verify the status of each member, especially to determine on whether a member is employed or unemployed, to determine the true character of our members.
- h. The commission noted that, the payment of levy to well nurtured communists is not a by the way thing or a favour, but a deep sense of belonging and appreciating the objectives of the communist struggle.
- i. That the SACP should continue to develop dynamic link with COSATU and its Affiliates for joint Recruitment and Other Campaigns as part of building a strong SACP and also strengthen our Debit Order Campaign.
- j. The Party should pay special attention to building the cadre that is loyal to the Party, the masses and the working class in particular.
- k. Administration of membership in Provinces and lower structures continue to be a serious challenge, and as a result the SACP continue to loose a lot of money which is mainly related to poor administration of membership forms.
- l. National Office to enforce the Central Committee Decision to deduct money from Provincial Accounts where the above applies.
- m. New demarcation processes of ANC ward based branches may impact negatively on our VD based branches
- n. Some Districts do not have the capacity to service all branches as some do not have offices.
- o. Constitutional imperatives like clauses 5.3 and 22.1 may cause barriers to leadership of VD based branches.
- p. BECs should assist in launching VD based branches either through setting up Task Teams or deploying BEC members.
- q. Clear programmes to be drawn on the launches. Progress report to be submitted by end of July 2010.
- r. Provincial Offices to monitor the launch of these branches. Zonal structures to be set up for co-ordination purposes.
- s. Issues for consideration in the 13th Congress:
 - i. Consider extending term of office of branches to two years.
 - ii. Decentralise membership cards issuing to curb delays.

2. The kind of Cadre we need for better Service Delivery to the People

- a. The advantage is that all structures of the Alliance are guided by the principle of Democratic Centralism – participatory democracy, Unity in action and Acceptance of leadership.
- b. Commitment and or Loyalty to the needs and aspirations of the working class and the poor as reflected in many of our documents is key when-ever we deal with issues of deployment.

- c. In whatever arrangement that may be reached between the leadership of the Alliance, the issue of SACP representatives should never be compromised.
- d. In the movement there are forces in all levels who continue to openly attack the Left in general and the SACP in particular, and we should never be apologetic not to support such individuals or groupings.
- e. It should be a comrade who participates in ANC and SACP structures and is community based in terms of involvement in activities.
- f. We need to identify an individual with skills required in this sphere of government.
- g. Ensure that we embark on a campaign to root out corruption and identify a cadre consistent in fighting corruption.
- h. Councillors to be taken to a political school after their election so as to instil in them the class consciousness.

3. SACP Approach to the 2011 Local Government Elections

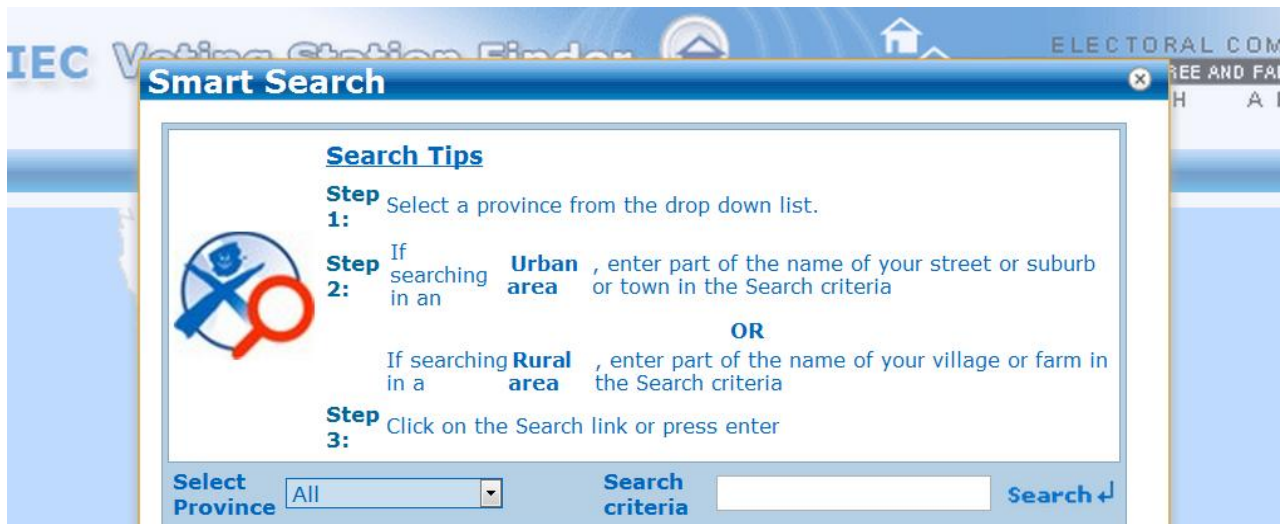
- a. The Central Committee to develop SACP approach for the Local Government Elections, taking into consideration many factors.
 - b. Embark on a vigorous recruitment campaign as we are launching VD based branches and in that process mobilise for the ANC victory in the coming elections.
 - c. Campaigning structures to be set up at all levels so as to among other things get closer to the communities.
 - d. Intensify the “Know your Neighbourhood” Campaign as a key campaign and provide reports on a regular basis. Focus on NHI, HIV/AIDS and Rural Development among other community struggles.
 - e. Encourage all our members to participate in MDM structures with the aim of being influential there.
 - f. We need to make an audit of service delivery based on information received during the past National elections’ mobilisation, with the aim of trying to identify short wins.
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How to form a VD Branch

The SACP has decided to re-organise on the basis of Voting Districts (VDs), which are the smallest administrative units delimited by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

Urban Voting Districts contain some 3,000 voters on average located within a radius of some 7,5 km of the Voting District's single voting station. Rural Voting Districts accommodate some 1,200 voters located within a radius of some 10 km of the voting station. There are normally several, often four or five, Voting Districts in each electoral ward.

To find out your Voting District Number, the location of your Voting Station, and a map of the Voting District, go to [the IEC web site](#) and click where it says "Where is my voting station". Or [click here to go direct](#) to that page. It looks like this:

The image shows a web browser window with the title "IEC Voting Station Finder". The main content area is titled "Smart Search" and contains three steps for searching. Step 1: "Select a province from the drop down list." Step 2: "If searching in an Urban area, enter part of the name of your street or suburb or town in the Search criteria" OR "If searching in a Rural area, enter part of the name of your village or farm in the Search criteria". Step 3: "Click on the Search link or press enter". At the bottom, there is a "Select Province" dropdown menu with "All" selected, a "Search criteria" text input field, and a "Search" button with a downward arrow.

Follow the instructions, i.e. select your Province from the drop-down list, then put in your search term, such as your street name. Click Search or Enter, and then make your choices from the next screen that appears.

You may need to go back to this page and do the process again with a different search term. For example, to get the outlined **Voting District Map** you may need to come back to this screen, having found your VD number, and then put the VD number in as the new search term.

Do a "Print Screen" (PrtSC) of the map, paste into "Paint", crop it and save it.

Later, you may wish to use [Google Maps](#) to refine your knowledge of your area.

Find other party comrades in your Voting District, and if necessary in adjacent Voting Districts to make up a sufficient number. Form a unit of a minimum of four comrades. Continue to recruit by “Know Your Neighbourhood” (door to door) canvassing. When you have 25 members you can launch a branch with the help of your District Executive Committee (DEC), elect a BEC and enjoy the full life of an SACP branch.

The [SACP Constitution](#) has not changed. VD branches must conform to it as before.

Relevant parts of the SACP Constitution:

21. BRANCHES

The basic structure of the SACP is the branch, to be formed at a residential area or workplace and every member shall be obliged to belong to a branch. After consultation with the PECs, the CC shall draw up a policy framework for the determination of the boundaries of branches. This policy framework shall take into account the ward and voting district boundaries within a municipality. The branch shall:

21.1 Consist of a minimum of 25.

21.2 Ensure that its members are given every opportunity to exercise their basic democratic right to discuss and formulate policies.

21.3 Ensure that it acts as a basic unit of activity for members by:

21.3.1 elaborating strategic, tactical and organisational tasks for the branch;

21.3.2 fully participating in the national democratic and socialist struggles;

21.3.3 initiating and co-ordinating campaigns;

21.3.4 conducting programmes on socialist education; and

21.3.5 developing working class leadership on the ground.

21.4 Assist members to fulfill their duties as defined in clause 5.9 above and interim members to meet the requirements for membership set out in 5.3 above.

21.5 Meet at least once a month.

21.6 Elect a BEC at an annual branch meeting consisting of a Secretary, Chairperson, Treasurer, Deputy Secretary and Deputy Chairperson and not more than 5 additional committee members. Only a person who has been a member in good standing for more than 2 years shall be eligible for election to the BEC, except in the case of a totally new branch, in which case those who have been conferred membership by the DEC or PEC, having served a year as interim members, may stand for election to the BEC. The BEC shall submit regular reports to the DEC.

21.7 Where a vacancy arises among the office bearers of the branch, the next Branch General meeting shall elect an interim office bearer, who will serve for the remainder of the period until the next AGM.

21.8 Only send a voting delegate/s to a SACP Congress, Conference, or Council at National, Provincial or District levels, if that branch has been in existence and functioning for at least 6 months.

22. PARTY UNITS

22.1 Units of the SACP, consisting of a minimum of 4 members may be formed in circumstances where a branch cannot be formed. This unit shall be represented by one person on the nearest BEC. All the members of such a unit shall have all the responsibilities and duties of SACP members but do not have voting rights at Branch meetings or District or Provincial Councils and Congresses. Such units shall be allowed to exist and function for no more than one year without launching as a full branch, unless otherwise authorised by the DEC or PEC where a DEC does not exist or is not functional.

22.2 Units of the SACP consisting of a minimum of 4 members may also be formed in workplaces, with the approval of the DEC or PEC where a DEC does not exist or is not functional.

22.3 Units of the SACP consisting of a minimum of 4 members may also be formed to facilitate and encourage participation in SACP activities in a branch which covers a wide geographical area. The formation of such units within a branch **must be approved at a branch general meeting.**

Course: Development, Rural and Urban

13101, SACP, Building a strong SACP, Forming a VD Branch

1884 words